

**Administrator's Actions**

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- EPA is currently conducting a Safe Drinking Water Act § 1445 compliance monitoring inspection (primarily non-LCR) at the City of Benton Harbor's PWS this week. Michigan EGLE and the state Department of Health and Human Services are working with community groups to make door-to-door deliveries of point-of-use filters and share informational materials on lead in drinking water and instructions on filter installation and effectiveness. The Berrien County Health Department shared that it has distributed filters to 2,634 homes out of the approximately 3,500 homes in Benton Harbor. There are only approximately 900 homes left to distribute filters to, and the BCHD is going to provide EPA with a list by COB **September 27** of the approximately 900 addresses remaining to receive a filter. R5's ECAD Director is scheduled to meet with Rev. Pinkney and other residents this week. EPA representatives from the regional and national office met with petitioner on **September 15** to discuss their September 9 filing for federal emergency action under the SDWA to abate an alleged imminent and substantial endangerment to Benton Harbor residents from lead contamination in drinking water. EPA is scheduled to meet with the petitioners again on **September 22**.

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## Hot Topics

On **September 9**, EPA received a Petition for Emergency Action under the Safe Drinking Water Act to abate the imminent and substantial endangerment to Benton Harbor, Michigan and protect residents from lead contamination in drinking water. The 19 signatories are community groups, nonprofit corporations, and other organizations. Levels of lead contamination in Benton Harbor, an environmental justice community, have exceeded the lead action level set by the lead and copper rule since Fall 2018. On **September 13**, EPA HQ and R5 leadership discussed recent agency and state actions and agreed to reach out to the petitioners. On **September 15**, OW AA Radhika Fox led a discussion with petitioners, EPA HQ, and R5 staff on short-term actions to provide safe drinking water to the residents of Benton Harbor. During the week of **September 20**, EPA held agency discussions, consulted with Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), and held additional discussions with petitioners. EPA is considering a range of actions in consultation with Michigan EGLE to address lead-related health issues in Benton Harbor.

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